

In the claims:

1. A network system for setting a transfer path according to a spanning tree on a network connecting a plurality of nodes, wherein
  - 5 two different networks are connected by a partial network consisting of at least four nodes accommodating no terminal, and
    - 10 the node belonging to said partial network configures and manages a spanning tree for every other network adjacent to the self-partial network, according to a spanning tree protocol.
2. The network system as set forth in claim 1, where said partial network is formed by a link connecting said opposite nodes, and
  - 5 each pair of the nodes for the same number as forming said partial network is connected to each different network.
3. The network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said node comprises
  - 5 a plurality of transfer units which determines an output destination port in every said partial network, based on a destination MAC address of an input frame, and
    - 5 a plurality of tree managers which configures a spanning tree for every said partial network and said network, according to the spanning tree protocol and transfers a frame.

4. The network system as set forth in claim 3, wherein  
said node comprises  
said tree manager which manages the spanning tree of  
the self-partial network,

5 a virtual port which packs into one the output ports  
to said self-partial network which connects said transfer  
unit.

5. The network system as set forth in claim 4, where  
said node comprises  
the several transfer units which determines an output  
destination port in every said partial network, based on a  
5 destination MAC address of an input frame,  
an RPR frame transfer unit which determines a  
destination RPR address, a ring ID, and an output destination  
port, based on the destination MAC address of the input frame,  
the several tree managers which configures a spanning  
10 tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning  
tree protocol and transfers a frame,  
a TTL manager which performs subtraction of TTL and  
discards the frame by the TTL, and  
the virtual port which connects said tree manager for  
15 managing the spanning tree of the self-partial network and  
said RPR frame transfer unit and puts the output port toward  
the self-partial network together.

6. The network system as set forth in claim 5, wherein  
said TTL manager comprises  
a TTL checker which discards the frame with reference  
to a TTL value, and

5 a TTL controller which performs addition and  
subtraction of the TTL value.

7. The network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
said node comprises  
a plurality of transfer units which determines an  
output destination port in every said partial network, based  
5 on a destination MAC address of an input frame,

a plurality of tree managers which configures a  
spanning tree for every said partial network, according to  
the spanning tree protocol and transfers a frame, and

10 a BPDU identifying unit which determines a tree  
manager of an output destination of an input BPDU frame  
according to an identifier.

8. The network system as set forth in claim 7, wherein  
said BPDU identifying unit comprises  
an identifier inserting unit which inserts a tag or  
a bit (tags or bits) for identifying the tree manager, and  
5 an identifier deleting unit which deletes the tag or  
the bit (tags or bits) used for identifying the tree manager.

9. The network system as set forth in claim 4, wherein

5                   said node comprises  
                      an address learning unit which creates a table, based  
                      on an input port and a source MAC address of the received  
                      frame, and  
                      a table which determines an output destination port  
                      by using the destination MAC address as a key.

10.          The network system as set forth in claim 9, wherein  
                      said table comprises  
                      a destination MAC address field which describes the  
                      destination MAC address, and  
                      an output port field which describes an output  
                      destination port corresponding to the destination MAC  
                      address.

5          11.          The network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
                      said node comprises  
                      a plurality of transfer units which determines an  
                      output destination port in every said partial network, based  
                      on an identification tag of an input frame,  
                      a multiphase tree manager which configures a spanning  
                      tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning  
                      tree protocol in every identification tag of the input frame,  
                      and  
                      a virtual port which connects said multiphase tree  
                      manager and said transfer unit and puts the output port toward  
                      the self-partial network together.

12. The network system as set forth in claim 3, wherein  
said node comprises  
a failure detector which detects a failure through  
transmission and receipt of keep alive frames.

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13. The network system as set forth in claim 12, wherein  
said failure detector comprises  
a signal separator which separates the keep alive  
frames from the other frame, and  
5 a keep alive signal transmitter/receiver which  
transmits and receives the keep alive frames.

14. The network system as set forth in claim 12, wherein  
said node comprises  
a frame blocking unit which cuts off the port at a  
time of double failure.

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15. The network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
said node comprises  
a plurality of transfer units which determines an  
output destination port in every said partial network, based  
5 on an identification tag of the input frame,  
a multiphase tree manager which configures a spanning  
tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning  
tree protocol in every identification tag of the input frame,  
and

10           a tag operation unit which inserts and deletes an identification tag.

16.       The network system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said tree manager comprises  
                a tree controller which determines a state of a port according to the spanning tree protocol,  
5           a BPDU transmitter/receiver which transmits and receives a control signal (control signals) of the spanning tree protocol, and  
                a port blocking unit which closes or opens a port.

17.       A node forming a spanning tree on a network connecting a plurality of nodes, comprising the following steps of:  
                configuring a partial network which connects two different networks by, at least, four nodes accommodating no terminal; and  
                configuring and managing a spanning tree for every other network adjacent to the self-partial network, according to a spanning tree protocol

18.       The node as set forth in claim 17, comprising the following steps of:  
                configuring said partial network by a link connecting said opposite nodes; and  
5           connecting each pair of the nodes for the same number as forming said partial network to each different network.

19. The node as set forth in claim 17, comprising:  
a plurality of transfer units which determines an  
output destination port in every said partial network, based  
on a destination MAC address of an input frame; and  
5 a plurality of tree managers which configures a  
spanning tree for every said network, according to the  
spanning tree protocol and transfers a frame.

20. The node as set forth in claim 19, comprising  
said tree manager which manages the spanning tree of  
the self-partial network,  
a virtual port which packs into one the output ports  
5 to said self-partial network which connects said transfer  
unit.

21. The node as set forth in claim 19, comprising:  
the several transfer units which determines an output  
destination port in every said partial network, based on a  
destination MAC address of an input frame;  
5 an RPR frame transfer unit which determines a  
destination RPR address, a ring ID, and an output destination  
port, based on the destination MAC address of the input frame;  
the several tree managers which configures a spanning  
tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning  
10 tree protocol and transfers a frame;  
a TTL manager which performs subtraction of TTL and

discards the frame by the TTL; and  
the virtual port for connecting said tree manager  
which manages the spanning tree of the self-partial network  
15 and said RPR frame transfer unit and putting the output port  
toward the self-partial network together.

22. The node as set forth in claim 21, wherein  
said TTL manager comprises  
a TTL checker which discards the frame with reference  
to a TTL value, and  
5 a TTL controller which performs addition and  
subtraction of the TTL value.

23. The node as set forth in claim 18, comprising:  
a plurality of transfer units which determines an  
output destination port in every said partial network, based  
on a destination MAC address of the input frame;  
5 a plurality of tree managers which configures a  
spanning tree for every said partial network, according to  
the spanning tree protocol and transfers a frame; and  
a BPDU identifying unit which determines a tree  
manager of an output destination of an input BPDU frame  
10 according to an identifier.

24. The node as set forth in claim 23, wherein  
said BPDU identifying unit comprises  
an identifier inserting unit which inserts a tag or

a bit (tags or bits) for identifying the tree manager, and  
5                   an identifier deleting unit which deletes the tag or  
the bit (tags or bits) used for identifying the tree manager.

25.       The node as set forth in claim 19, comprising:  
                 an address learning unit which creates a table, based  
on an input port and a source MAC address of the received  
frame; and  
5                   a table which determines an output destination port  
by using the destination MAC address as a key.

26.       The node as set forth in claim 25, wherein  
                 said table comprises  
                 a destination MAC address field which describes the  
destination MAC address, and  
5                   an output port field which describes an output  
destination port corresponding to the destination MAC  
address.

27.       The node as set forth in claim 18, comprising:  
                 a plurality of transfer units which determines an  
output destination port in every said partial network, based  
on an identification tag of an input frame;  
5                   a multiphase tree manager which configures a spanning  
tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning  
tree protocol in every identification tag of the input frame;  
and

10           a virtual port which connects said multiphase tree manager and said transfer unit and puts the output port toward the self-partial network together.

28.       The node as set forth in claim 19, comprising a failure detector which detectes a failure through transmission and receipt of keep alive frames.

29.       The node as set forth in claim 28, wherein  
5           said failure detector comprises  
              a signal separator which separates the keep alive frames from the other frame, and  
              a keep alive signal transmitter/receiver which transmits and receives the keep alive frames.

30.       The node as set forth in claim 28, comprising  
              a frame blocking unit which cuts off the port at a time of double failure.

31.       The node as set forth in claim 18, comprising:  
              a plurality of transfer units which determines an output destination port in every said partial network, based on an identification tag of the input frame;  
5            a multiphase tree manager which configures a spanning tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning tree protocol in every identification tag of the input frame;  
              and

10           a tag operation unit which inserts and deletes an identification tag.

32.       The node as set forth in claim 19, wherein  
said tree manager comprises  
a tree controller which determines a state of a port  
according to the spanning tree protocol,  
5           a BPDU transmitter/receiver which transmits and  
receives a control signal (control signals) of the spanning  
tree protocol, and  
a port blocking unit which closes or opens a port.

33.       A spanning tree configuration method of configuring  
a spanning tree on a network connecting a plurality of nodes,  
comprising the following steps of:

5           configuring a partial network which connects two  
different networks by, at least, four nodes accommodating  
no terminal; and

            configuring and managing a spanning tree for every  
other network adjacent to the self-partial network,  
according to a spanning tree protocol.

10           34.      The spanning tree configuration method as set forth  
in claim 33, comprising:

5           a transfer step of determining an output destination  
port in every said partial network, based on a destination  
MAC address of an input frame; and

a tree manager step of configuring a spanning tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning tree protocol and transferring a frame.

35. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth in claim 34, comprising

said tree manager step which manages the spanning tree of the self-partial network,

5 a step of connecting said transfer step by a virtual port which packs into one the output ports to said self-partial network.

36. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth in claim 34, comprising:

5 said transfer step of determining an output destination port in every said partial network, based on a destination MAC address of an input frame;

an RPR frame transfer step of determining a destination RPR address, a ring ID, and an output destination port, based on the destination MAC address of the input frame;

10 said tree manager step of configuring a spanning tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning tree protocol and transferring a frame;

a TTL manager step of performing subtraction of TTL and discarding the frame by the TTL; and

15 a step of connecting said tree manager step of managing the spanning tree of the self-partial network and

said RPR frame transfer step through a virtual port for putting the output port toward the self-partial network together.

37. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth in claim 34, wherein

said TTL manager step comprises  
a TTL checker step of discarding the frame with  
reference to a TTL value, and  
a TTL controller step of performing addition and subtraction of the TTL value.

38. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth in claim 35, comprising:

said transfer step of determining an output destination port in every said partial network, based on a destination MAC address of the input frame;  
said tree manager step of configuring a spanning tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning tree protocol and transferring a frame; and  
a BPDU identifying step of determining a tree manager step of an output destination of an input BPDU frame according to an identifier.

10 39. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth in claim 38, wherein

said BPDU identifying step comprises

an identifier inserting step of inserting a tag or  
5 a bit (tags or bits) for identifying said tree manager step,  
and

an identifier deleting step of deleting the tag or  
the bit (tags or bits) used for identifying said tree manager  
step.

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40. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth  
in claim 34, comprising:

an address learning step of creating a table for  
determining an output destination port by using the  
5 destination MAC address as a key, based on an input port and  
a source MAC address of the received frame.

41. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth  
in claim 40, wherein

said table comprises  
a destination MAC address field which describes the  
5 destination MAC address, and

an output port field which describes an output  
destination port corresponding to the destination MAC  
address.

42. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth  
in claim 33, comprising:

the transfer step of determining an output  
destination port in every said partial network, based on an

5 identification tag of an input frame;

the multiphase tree manager step of configuring a spanning tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning tree protocol in every identification tag of the input frame; and

10 a step of connecting said multiphase tree manager step and said transfer step through a virtual port for putting the output port toward the self-partial network together.

43. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth in claim 33, comprising

a failure detecting step of detecting a failure through transmission and receipt of keep alive frames.

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44. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth in claim 43, wherein

said failure detecting step comprises

5 a signal separating step of separating the keep alive frames from the other frame, and

a keep alive signal transmitting/receiving step of transmitting and receiving the keep alive frames.

45. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth in claim 43, comprising

a blocking step of cutting off the port at a time of double failure.

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46. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth in claim 33, comprising:

the transfer step of determining an output destination port in every said partial network, based on an identification tag of the input frame;

5 the multiphase tree manager step of configuring a spanning tree for every partial network, according to the spanning tree protocol in every identification tag of the input frame; and

10 a tag operating step of inserting and deleting an identification tag.

47. The spanning tree configuration method as set forth in claim 34, wherein

said multiphase tree manager step comprises  
5 a tree controller step of determining a state of a port according to the spanning tree protocol,

a BPDU transmitting/receiving step of transmitting and receiving a control signal (control signals) of the spanning tree protocol, and

10 a port blocking step of closing or opening a port.

48. A spanning tree configuration program of running on each node forming a spanning tree on a network connecting a plurality of nodes, comprising the following functions of:

5 configuring a partial network which connects two different networks by, at least, four nodes accommodating

no terminal; and

configuring and managing a spanning tree for every other network adjacent to the self-partial network, according to a spanning tree protocol.

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49. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth in claim 48, comprising:

a transfer function of determining an output destination port in every said partial network, based on a destination MAC address of an input frame; and

5 a tree manager function of configuring a spanning tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning tree protocol and transferring a frame.

50. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth in claim 49, comprising

a function of connecting said tree manager function of managing the spanning tree of the self-partial network and said transfer function through a virtual port for putting the output port toward the self-partial network together.

51. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth in claim 48, comprising:

the transfer function of determining an output destination port in every said partial network, based on a destination MAC address of an input frame;

5 an RPR frame transfer function of determining a

destination RPR address, a ring ID, and an output destination port, based on the destination MAC address of the input frame;

10           the tree manager function of configuring a spanning tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning tree protocol and transferring a frame;

              a TTL manager function of performing subtraction of TTL and discarding the frame by the TTL; and

15           a function of connecting said tree manager function of managing the spanning tree of the self-partial network and said RPR frame transfer function through a virtual port for putting the output port toward the self-partial network together.

52.       The spanning tree configuration program as set forth in claim 49, wherein

              said TTL manager function comprises

5           a TTL checker function of discarding the frame with reference to a TTL value, and a TTL controller function of performing addition and subtraction of the TTL value.

53.       The spanning tree configuration program as set forth in claim 50, comprising:

              the transfer function of determining an output destination port in every said partial network, based on a destination MAC address of the input frame;

              the tree manager function of configuring a spanning tree for every said partial network, according to the spanning

tree protocol and transferring a frame; and  
10 a BPDU identifying function of determining a tree manager function of an output destination of an input BPDU frame according to an identifier.

54. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth in claim 53, wherein  
5 said BPDU identifying function comprises  
an identifier inserting function of inserting a tag or a bit (tags or bits) for identifying said tree manager function, and  
an identifier deleting function of deleting the tag or the bit (tags or bits) used for identifying said tree manager function.

10 55. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth in claim 49, comprising  
an address learning function of creating a table for determining an output destination port by using the  
5 destination MAC address as a key, based on an input port and a source MAC address of the received frame.

56. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth in claim 55, wherein  
5 said table comprises  
a destination MAC address field which describes the destination MAC address, and

an output port field which describes an output destination port corresponding to the destination MAC address.

57. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth in claim 58, comprising:

the transfer function of determining an output destination port in every partial network, based on an identification tag of an input frame;

the multiphase tree manager function of configuring a spanning tree for every partial network, according to the spanning tree protocol in every identification tag of the input frame; and

10 a function of connecting said multiphase tree manager function and said transfer function through a virtual port for putting the output port toward the self-partial network together.

58. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth in claim 48, comprising

a failure detecting function of detecting a failure through transmission and receipt of keep alive frames.

59. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth in claim 58, wherein

said failure detecting function comprises  
a signal separating function of separating the keep

5 alive frames from the other frame, and  
a keep alive signal transmitting/receiving function  
of transmitting and receiving the keep alive frames.

60. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth  
in claim 58, comprising

a blocking function of cutting off the port at a time  
of double failure.

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61. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth  
in claim 58, comprising:

the transfer function of determining an output  
destination port in every said partial network, based on an  
identification tag of the input frame;

the multiphase tree manager function of configuring  
a spanning tree for every said partial network, according  
to the spanning tree protocol in every identification tag  
of the input frame; and

10 a tag operating function of inserting and deleting  
an identification tag.

62. The spanning tree configuration program as set forth  
in claim 59, wherein

said multiphase tree manager function comprises  
a tree controller function of determining a state of  
5 a port according to the spanning tree protocol,  
a BPDU transmitting/receiving function of

transmitting and receiving a control signal (control signals) of the spanning tree protocol, and  
a port blocking function of closing or opening a port.

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63. The network system as set forth in claim 16,  
when transmitting a control signal (control signals)  
of said spanning tree protocol to a node adjacent to the  
self-node and connected to both said partial network and said  
other adjacent network,

transmitting the coherent MAC address of the above  
node as the destination of the control signal (control  
signals) of said spanning tree protocol.

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